

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-11 AF-06 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 OPIC-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 DHA-02 SCCT-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /107 W

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R 021411Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5873

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1056

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 716

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE FARMERS HOLD RALLIES

REF: LISBON 212 (DTG 121737Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE FARMERS FAILED FEB 1 TO CARRY OUT PREVIOUS  
THREATS OF FOOD BLOCKADE AGAINST LISBON. COMMUNIST SEC GEN  
ALVARO CUNHAL CALLED JAN 31 FOR IMMEDIATE GOP RECOGNITION OF  
MPLA. CALL IS PART OF LARGER CAMPAIGN BY PRO-MPLA FORCES TO  
RAM THROUGH RECOGNITION OF LUANDA REGIME; CAMPAIGN WILL BE  
INCREASINGLY HARDER TO RESIST AS MPLA VICTORIES IN ANGOLA MOUNT.  
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1. FARMERS BLOCKADE POSTPONED: FARMERS ORGANIZED BY CONFEDERATION OF PORTUGUESE FARMERS (CAP) MET FEB 1 IN RALLIES IN SIX DIFFERENT LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT PORTUGAL TO EXPRESS THEIR CONTINUED DISSATISFACTION WITH AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, BUT STOPPED SHORT OF TAKING "DRASTIC MEASURES" THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY THREATENED. IN JAN 11 MEETING IN BRAGA, FARMERS HAD DEMANDED SUBSTANTIAL REVISION OF AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AND SACKING OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ANTONIO LOPES CARDOSO. THEY THREATENED TO MARCH ON LISBON AND CUT OFF SUPPLY OF FOOD TO CAPITAL IF GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACCEDE TO THEIR DEMANDS BY FEB 1 (REFTEL). FOLLOWING HASTILY CONVOKED JAN 30 MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO, AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO, AND LABOR MINISTER TOMAS ROSA, HOWEVER, CAP REPRESENTATIVES ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD NOT RESORT TO SUCH DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES "FOR NOW." FEB 1 RALLIES FEATURED RENEWED ATTACKS ON LOPES CARDOSO AND PRAISE FOR PRIME MINISTER'S "UNDERSTANDING" OF FARMERS POSITION. RALLIES ENDED WITH APPROVAL OF MOTION TO HOLD FURTHER MEETINGS AT UNSPECIFIED DATE.

2. CUNHAL SPEAKS: AT JAN 31 LISBON COMMUNIST YOUTH GROUP RALLY, PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) SEC GEN ALVARO CUNHAL STRUCK FOLLOWING MAJOR THEMES:

-- MPLA RECOGNITION: CUNHAL LAUDED RECENT MPLA VICTORIES IN ANGOLA AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MPLA'S ENEMIES WOULD BE TOTALLY DEFEATED. RECALLING THAT PCP HAD ALWAYS ADVOCATED GOP RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVERNMENT, HE WARNED THAT EACH DAY GOP PUTS OFF RECOGNITION PREJUDICED NOT ONLY PORTUGUESE - ANGOLAN RELATIONS, BUT ALSO THOSE BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND OTHER FORMER COLONIES. CUNHAL CONCLUDED WITH CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION OF LUANDA REGIME.

-- SOCIALIST COURTED: CUNHAL REITERATED PREVIOUS WARNINGS AGAINST THREAT FROM RIGHT, STRESSING NEED FOR UNITY OF ANTI-FASCIST FORCES. CUNHAL STATED THAT PCP-SOCIALIST ALLIANCE TO THIS END MIGHT BE "DECISIVE." HE BLAMED ANTI-COMMUNISM OF SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP FOR FAILURE TO CONCLUDE SUCH AN ALLIANCE, AFFIRMING THAT COMMUNISTS WOULD DO "EVERYTHING" TO MAKE RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN  
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COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS POSSIBLE.

3. PACT NEGOTIATIONS: NEGOTIATIONS ON REVISION OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT - POLITICAL PARTIES PACT CONTINUED JAN 31 WITH MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC). FOLLOWING MEETING, PCP SEC GEN ALVARO CUNHAL STATED DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN "USEFUL AND POSITIVE." CHIEF RC NEGOTIATOR FONMIN ERNESTO MELO

ANTUNES EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT FINAL CONCLUSION TO PACT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE REACHED "IN RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME." NEGOTIATIONS RESUME FEB 2 BETWEEN RC AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY (CDS).

4. SA CARNEIRO TO CHINA: POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) SEC GEN SA CARNEIRO TOLD PRESS FEB 1 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INVITATION FROM PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) AND WOULD VISIT CHINA IN NEAR FUTURE. INVITATION WAS REPORTEDLY ARRANGED THROUGH MARXIST-LENINIST PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP-ML) WHICH HAS CLOSE TIES WITH PRC. PPD SOURCE DESCRIBED INVITATION AS GREAT COUP FOR SA CARNEIRO ACHIEVED BECAUSE OF PPD'S HARD LINE TOWARD SOVIET-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP).

5. TERRORISM: REACTIONS TO RECENT WAVE OF BOMB ATTACKS AGAINST LEFTIST TARGETS INCLUDED:

-- HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES CHAIRED TWO HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS JAN 31 TO DISCUSS MEANS OF COUNTERING TERRORISM. FIRST WAS ATTENDED BY SERVICE CHIEFS OF STAFF; SECOND BY REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRY OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION AND COMMANDERS OF NATIONAL GUARD AND PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE.

-- STRIKE: NATIONWIDE ONE-HOUR INTERSINDICAL-BACKED STRIKE TO PROTEST TERRORISM HAS BEEN CALLED FOR 2:00 TO 3:00 P.M. FEB 2.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 716

-- COUNCIL OF MINISTERS STATEMENT: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
JAN 30 DENOUNCED RISING TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND ANNOUNCED  
THAT ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO COMBAT IT.

6. MDP PLENARY: 800 DELEGATES PARTICIPATED JAN 31 - FEB 1  
IN A NATIONAL MEETING OF ACTIVISTS OF THE FELLOW-  
TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP). DELEGATES  
APPROVED GENERAL LINES OF NEW PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING  
COHESION OF PORTUGUESE LEFT, BUT PUT OFF FOR FUTURE  
DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM'S DETAILS. ALSO PUT OFF WAS QUESTION  
OF MDP PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY. NO DECISIONS ON PARTY LEADERSHIP EMERGED ALTHOUGH  
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THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT RUMORS OF DIVISIONS WITHIN MDP.

7. NEW MINISTRY: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED JAN 30  
CREATION OF MINISTRY OF HOUSING, URBAN AFFAIRS, AND CONSTRUCTION.  
NEW MINISTRY WILL INCLUDE TWO SUB-CABINET POSITIONS: HOUSING  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS, AND CIVIL CONSTRUCTION. FORMATION OF HOUSING  
PORTFOLIO REFLECTED DESIRE TO REMOVE THAT SECTOR, WHICH BENEFITS  
FROM CONSIDERABLE FOREIGN -- INCLUDING USG -- FINANCING, FROM  
COMMUNIST-HEADED MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT.  
NAMES OF NEW MINISTER AND SECRETARIES OF STATE HAVE  
NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED.

8. COMMENT: CUNHAL'S COMMENTS ON ANGOLA ARE ANOTHER EXAMPLE  
OF THE CAMPAIGN BEING GEARED-UP BY PRO-MPLA FORCES IN LISBON  
TO RAM THROUGH GOP RECOGNITION OF THE LUANDA REGIME BY PLAYING  
ON ONE OF THE MOST TELLING ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF  
RECOGNITION -- THE BATTLEFIELD REALITIES.  
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## Message Attributes

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